

SRA Survey Research Associates, Inc.

6115 Falls Road Baltimore, Maryland 21209 (301) 377-5660

December 11, 1989

Ms. Sharon Miller
Contracting Officer
National Cancer Institute
Research Contracts Branch
Executive Plaza South, Suite 620J
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

RE: MAO/RFP No. NCI-CP-95654-13

Dear Ms. Miller:

Survey Research Associates, Inc. (SRA) is pleased to submit a proposal to conduct a case/control study in the state of Missouri titled the "Case/Control Study of Residential Exposure to Radon and Lung Cancer Among Nonsmoking Women in Missouri."

We feel that SRA is especially well qualified to undertake all of the tasks associated with the project, namely: maintaining cooperation with the Missouri Cancer Registry and health care facilities, training and monitoring of personnel to abstract medical records, sampling a control population, screening cases and controls for eligibility, administering telephone interviews, conducting a household field visit (including a residential structural survey, placing radon dosi-meters and administering a nutrition questionnaire), harvesting dosimeters, preparing, and tracking and processing all data collected.

From our permanent office in St. Louis, Missouri, SRA is currently conducting the "Case/Control Study of Residential Exposure to Radon" which is the project from which the procedures for this current RFP have been developed.

In performing the work for the current contract, SRA has put together an excellent team of professionals who have been working closely with both NCI and the Missouri Cancer Registry. The prototype study for this RFP has been designed, developed and implemented by an extremely dedicated study team. The key personnel have been successfully working with the NCI project officer for more than two years.

We feel strongly that the expertise and knowledge that have been gained to date on the current project should not be underestimated in the award of this new contract. The methodology for this project is not only complex, multi-phased and of a sensitive nature, it is much more technically demanding than most case/control studies. The numerous details and attention required involve much more than the identification of cases and controls, administration of interviews and placement and harvesting of dosimeters. Individual attention has been given to each and every case and control from the screening process through the telephone interview, field visit, and placement and retrieval of dosimeters. The Study Manager and Field Director work as a team through telephone contact and written correspondence to provide this individual attention. This type of careful attention to each component of the study has resulted in the success of the current project. The award of this contract to another firm will not assure that the success achieved by SRA will be reproduced.

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The results achieved to date by SRA, for all phases of the current project, have received acclaim by many investigators in various fields of research.

From our St. Louis office, SRA has also conducted many other projects. Among these is the Health Effects of Environmental Hazards Study in Missouri, which examined the mental health effects of experiencing environmental hazards, including exposure to dioxin and well water contaminated with radioactive wastes.

SRA also has experience collaborating with government registries. SRA has conducted three studies utilizing the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry: Breast Cancer Screening and Detection Programs for the Cancer Control Program, Survey of Cancer Rehabilitation Related Problems and the Study of the Needs of Cancer Patients in the Last Month of Life: As Reported by Their Significant Other. SRA has also collaborated with the Taiwanese Department of Health in the use of its registry of persons who had ingested PCB-contaminated rice oil and the employment of its personnel as interviewers.

As a small business, SRA has been privileged to work on major health-related research projects. Through the success on these projects, we have gained a reputation for high quality performance, excellent project management, fiscal responsibility and good working relationships with funding agency staff. Several studies which achieved high completion rates and high quality data are:

- Breast Cancer Case-Control Project for NCI - 6,500 in-person interviews nationwide - 92% completion;
- Support Services for Environmental Epidemiology and Support Services for New Efforts in Environmental Epidemiology - three 5-year studies for NIEHS which includes interviewing, abstracting, biological specimen collection and storage, laboratory work and analysis of data;
- Breast Milk versus Formula in Primiparae for NICHD - medical record abstracts, baseline and hospital interviews, telephone and in-person follow-up interviews at 1-, 3-, and 7-month intervals for 1,199 primiparae.

The success of any research project includes organized project management, competent staffing, strong quality control operations and commitment to high-quality performance. The team working on the current contract certainly has demonstrated these characteristics. We have achieved a reputation for excellence in these areas and look forward to the opportunity to continue to demonstrate our skills on the Case-Control Study, Residential Exposure to Radon and Lung Cancer Among Nonsmoking Women in Missouri.

Sincerely,



Diane Monheit
President

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